

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T STATE 254860

EXDIS TOSEC 99

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 13851 SENT SECSTATE DATED NOV 19.

QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 13851

EXDIS

FOR NEA/ARN DAVID KORN AND NSC STAFFER ROBERT OAKLEY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR LE US

SUBJECT: FRANGIE'S NOSE OUT OF JOINT

REF: EMBTEL 13772

1. ON EVENING NOVEMBER 17, MET WITH TAQLA AND SHOWED HIM
TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRESIDENT
FRANGIE. HE SAID IT WAS EXCELLENT AS FAR AS INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS WERE CONCERNED. TOLD HIM I WOULD APPRECIATE
HIS ADVICE ON HOW IT SHOULD BE HANDLED--I.E., WHETHER
I SHOULD SEEK AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT; SEND IT VIA DIB;
OR TO FOREIGN OFFICE. TAQLA STRONGLY SUGGESTED BEST
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MANNER TO HANDLE PROBLEM WAS FOR ME TO SEND LETTER TO
FOREIGN OFFICE WHICH HE WOULD PRESENT AT AN APPROPRIATE
MOMENT AS PART OF HIS CAMPAIGN TO BRING THE PRESIDENT
DOWN FROM THE CEILING OF OUTRAGE WHERE HE CONTINUES TO

REMAIN. TAQLA ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT IN LETTER I MENTION MY CONVERSATION WITH DIB AND BOUSTANI AND THE FACT THAT THE SECRETARY HAD INITIATED AN INVESTIGATION. ACCORDINGLY, YESTERDAY I DELIVERED UNDER COVER OF A FIRST PERSON NOTE TO TAQLA A LETTER FROM ME TO THE PRESIDENT QUOTING PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE AND TERMINATING WITH THE FOLLOWING THREE PARAGRAPHS: QTE NEEDLESS TO SAY, I PERSONALLY DEEPLY REGRET THE MOST UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT THAT I UNDERSTAND OCCURRED UPON YOUR ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES. AS YOU KNOW, I MET PRIVATELY

WITH DR. DIB AND COL. BOUSTANI AT 11:00 A.M. SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 9. I RETURNED DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE AND PREPARED A TELEGRAM FOR WASHINGTON CONTAINING THE ASSURANCES THAT DR. DIB AND COL. BOUSTANI GAVE ME CONCERNING THE ACTION THAT WOULD BE TAKEN IN BEIRUT PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTURE FOR THE UNITED STATES. THIS TELEGRAM WAS DISPATCHED ON A PRIORITY BASIS EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 9.

I AM TOTALLY IN THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF EXPLAINING WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS TELEGRAM UPON ITS RECEIPT IN WASHINGTON AND HOW IT FAILED TO REACH THE APPROPRIATE SUBSTANTIVE OFFICERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OR THE WHITE HOUSE. THE FACT THAT IT ARRIVED ON A SATURDAY WHEN OFFICES ARE NORMALLY CLOSED IS NOT, IN MY OPINION, ANY EXCUSE FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT OVERSIGHT. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER SHARES MY DEEP CONCERN ON THIS MATTER AND, AS HE HAS ALREADY INDICATED TO FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA, HAS ORDERED A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION OF THIS GRAVE OVERSIGHT AND HAS ASSURED US THAT HE WILL TAKE WHATEVER CORRECTIVE ACTION IS REQUIRED.

PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES AND THOSE OF MY GOVERNMENT; PLEASE ALSO ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, MY SOLEMN ASSURANCE THAT IN THE FUTURE I WILL DO EVERYTHING HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO AVOID ANY SUCH GRIEVOUS MISTAKES. END QTE.

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I INFORMED TAQLA IF HE HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS I WOULD BE HAPPY TO MODIFY MY THREE PARAGRAPHS AS HE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE. TAQLA VIA KHALIL HADDAD SAID HE HAD NO SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE.

2. EVEN TAQLA HAD NO RPT NO UNDERSTANDING OF OUR PROTOCOL PROCEDURES IN NEW YORK. WHILE HE WAS ALWAYS EXTREMELY COURTEOUS IN OUR MEETING SUNDAY EVENING, HE TOLD ME VERY FRANKLY THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS ABSOLUTELY INEXCUSABLE NOT TO HAVE EVEN SOME JUNIOR OFFICER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR USUN TO WELCOME THE GOOD PRESIDENT AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION. HE SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW A PERSONAL FRIEND SUCH AS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM COULD HAVE OVERLOOKED ARRANGING FOR SUCH SIMPLE COURTESIES.

3. YESTERDAY'S PRESS, BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY, HAD SEVERAL ARTICLES REGARDING FRANGIE'S PIQUE OVER FAILURE TO BE MET IN NEW YORK. TODAY'S AL BAYRAQ CARRIES FOLLOWING NEWS STORY AND EDITORIAL. AL BAYRAQ TRADITIONALLY CARRIES THE PRESIDENCY'S VIEWS AND THERE IS NO QUESTION IN OUR MIND THAT THE ARTICLE AND EDITORIAL WERE PROMPTED BY PRESIDENT OR HIS ENTOURAGE.

QTE NEWS STORY

AL BAYRAQ LEARNED FROM A RESPONSIBLE ARAB SOURCE THAT PRESIDENT FRANGIE REJECTED AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD IN WASHINGTON BEFORE PRESIDENT FRANGIE RETURNED TO BEIRUT. PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S ATTITUDE WAS CONVEYED TO THE ARAB KINGS AND PRESIDENTS. ALL PRAISED AND SUPPORTED HIM. IN DAMASCUS A SENIOR OFFICIAL TOLD AL BAYRAQ THAT THE ATTITUDE OF PRESIDENT FRANGIE DID NOT SURPRISE US (SYRIAN OFFICIALS). PRESIDENT ASSAD REACTED VERY FAVORABLY TO IT. THE LEBANESE DELEGATION WAS SURPRISED ON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT IN NEW YORK TO FIND THAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION HAD IGNORED IT COMPLETELY. THERE WAS SECRET

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ONLY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL. PRESIDENT FORD DID NOT ATTEND

BECAUSE PROTOCOL DOES NOT OBLIGE HIM TO DO SO AND BECAUSE PRESIDENT FRANGIE WAS VISITING THE UNITED NATIONS AND NOT THE UNITED STATES. ALSO

THERE WAS NO REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE U.S. DID NOT SEND A SINGLE PROTOCOL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AIRPORT TO SAY WELCOME TO THE UNITED STATES.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THE DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN KISSINGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA BUT THIS FAILED BECAUSE KISSINGER DID NOT HAVE AN OPENING IN HIS SCHEDULE FOR SUCH A MEETING. IT SEEMS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REALIZED THE TWO BIG MISTAKES IT MADE IN NOT MEETING THE PRESIDENT AT THE AIRPORT AND IN NOT ARRANGING A TAQLA-KISSINGER MEETING, BUT ONLY WHEN IT WAS TOO LATE. WHEN IT TRIED TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION AND PROPOSED A MEETING IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN THE

TWO PRESIDENTS IT FOUND THE DOOR COMPLETELY CLOSED. PRESIDENT FRANGIE REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL AND SAID THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION AT ALL FOR A MEETING WITH FORD. FRANGIE SAID THAT:

1. HE DID NOT GO TO NEW YORK IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE LEBANESE DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. HE WENT AS REPRESENTATIVE OF 19 KINGS AND PRESIDENTS WITH WHOM THE U.S. HAS MANY INTERESTS IN COMMON.

2. SECRETARY KISSINGER HIMSELF RECEIVED VERY SPECIAL CARE IN LEBANON. IN ORDER TO ENSURE HIS SAFETY PRESIDENT FRANGIE HIMSELF COVERED MORE THAN 120 KILOMETERS BY AUTOMOBILE TO MEET WITH HIM. ALTHOUGH HE IS A SECRETARY OF STATE OF A MAJOR POWER, HE SHOULD HAVE THE COURTESY TO MEET WITH THE LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN
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SUCH A MEETING IS PROPOSED.

3. THE FACT THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DID NOT SEND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE AIRPORT IN NEW YORK SHOWS NOT ONLY DISRESPECT FOR THE LEBANESE DELEGATION BUT PROBABLY ALSO INDICATES A NEW POLICY ADOPTED BY THE U.S.-- WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN FOR ITS ALIGNMENT WITH ISRAEL--TOWARD THE ARAB STATES, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE LEBANESE DELEGATION CARRIED TO THE UNITED NATIONS THE ATTITUDE AND OPINION OF 120 MILLION ARABS REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES WHICH RECEIVED DETAILS OF WHAT TOOK PLACE HAD EXPECTED THAT A DIPLOMATIC CRISIS WOULD ARISE BETWEEN LEBANON AND THE U.S. BUT LEBANON WILL TAKE CARE TO SEE THAT WHAT TOOK PLACE IN NEW YORK REMAINS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK WHERE IT ENDED, WHEN THE LEBANESE PRESIDENT TOLD THE AMERICANS THAT HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO MEET WITH THEIR PRESIDENT. END QTE.

QTE EDITORIAL

IN REJECTING AMERICAN PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO HIM DURING HIS RECENT UN VISIT, TO MEET WITH AMERICAN PRESIDENT GERALD FORD, PRESIDENT SLEIMAN FRANGIE WAS ON LEVEL OF BIG RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH HE CARRIED TO UN IN NAME OF 120 MILLION ARABS AND 19 ARAB KINGS AND PRESIDENTS.

GOVERNMENT OF US WHOSE SECRETARY HAS BEEN

COVERING THOUSANDS OF MILES BETWEEN SOME OF ARAB
CAPITALS BEGGING PEACE FOR ISRAEL, IGNORED, IN
WAY THAT IS DISGRACEFUL TO IT AS STATE, ARRIVAL
OF REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL ARABS IN ITS LAND. IF
PROTOCOL DID NOT OBLIGE PRESIDENT FORD TO FLY
FROM WASHINGTON TO NEW YORK TO RECEIVE ARAB
PRESIDENT, ON BASIS THAT HE IS VISITING UN NOT
US, SAME PROTOCOL PROVIDES THAT USG SENDS
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REPRESENTATIVE TO AIRPORT, REGARDLESS OF HIS RANK....
BUT IT SEEMS FORD'S ADMINISTRATION IS STILL NEW
IN PROTOCOL AFFAIRS.... BUT ATTITUDE OF FORD'S
ADMINISTRATION IS WORTHY OF LONG CONSIDERATION.
IT HAD KNOWN THAT PRESIDENT FRANKIE WILL COME TO
UN AS REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL ARAB STATES. DID IT
MEAN BY THIS DISREGARD TO DECLARE NEW POLICY
TOWARD ARABS? MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY
AFTER ISRAEL HAD ESCALATED TENSION IN AREA RECENTLY
WITH AMERICAN BLESSING, INDICATE THAT IN WASHINGTON
THERE ARE HIDDEN DESIGNS AWAITING RIGHT TIME TO
BE MADE KNOWN. END QTE.

4. OUR EMBASSY/USIA LEBANESE NEWS ANALYSTS INTERPRET
LAST SENTENCE OF NEWS STORY TO BE A MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT THAT MATTER IS NOW CLOSED. IT REMAINS TO
BE SEEN WHETHER THEY ARE RIGHT OR NOT.

5. FRIDAY, NOV 22, IS LEBANESE NATIONAL DAY WHICH
USUALLY INVOLVES PRESIDENT RECEIVING DIP CORPS AT
BAABDA. I GATHER FROM KHALIL HADDAD IT IS NOT
TOTALLY BEYOND THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT PRESIDENT
MAY SUGGEST I BE ABSENT. I AM REPORTING THIS MERELY
AS AN INDICATION OF DEGREE OF HIS CURRENT PIQUE. THE
NEXT FEW DAYS MAY CONTINUE TO BRING FURTHER SURPRISES.

6. GENERALLY SPEAKING, HOWEVER, I AM RATHER ENCOURAGED
BY FACTS THAT STORY OF SNIFFING DOGS HAS NOT YET REACHED
THE FOURTH ESTATE AND HAVE A HUNCH THAT PRESIDENT AND
PERHAPS EVEN TAQLA ARE VENTING THEIR VENOM ON THE ABSENCE
OF A RECEIVING COMMITTEE RATHER THAN THE SNIFFING
DOGS. GODLEY UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

SECRET

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